

**Overview & Scrutiny Budget Consultation 2015/16****Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 23 January, 2015**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Issue/Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>HOUSING COUNCIL FUND</b>		
<b>4. Community Centres</b>	What are the areas or types of centres affected	Most of the community centres will be those attached to sheltered accommodation schemes. The proposals ensure that they are used and properly maintained.
	Do the proposals mean that the community centres would be better used and generate income.	They do. The purpose was that community centres were used for lunch clubs, exercise clubs etc. and to include 3 <sup>rd</sup> party organisations to rent and use them to generate income.
<b>7. Response Service for Older People</b>	How small a charge would this be?	The proposed cost would be £5.00 per week for non emergency assistance.
	Could residents opt out of the scheme?	The £5.00 charge is for the out of hour's service.
	Could a breakdown of the number of residents accessing the out of hour's service be provided?	This information would be provided to Members.
	It was suggested that this proposal be accepted as a pressure of £20k.	It was agreed that this proposal be re-visited and re-modelled for the final budget proposals.
<b>8. Telecare Charging</b>	What are the costs?	The Telecare charge would be £2.20 per week, which included hire and maintenance. These

		costs would be met by residents receiving benefits through the Supporting People Grant.
<b>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>Rent Policy</b>	Concerns were raised around the varying rent levels across the County.	This was acknowledged. There were currently 900 different types of rent levels across the County and it would be difficult to collate this into meaningful information for Members.
	Could a simple briefing note be provided to Members in order for them to respond to any queries from residents on changes to the rent policy?	It was agreed that a briefing note be provided to Members.
<b>Service Charges</b>	Concerns were raised around the introduction of service charges.	The Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee had recently considered a report on the introduction of service charges. Consultation with residents was required.
<b>Fire Alarm Testing in-house</b>	Would staff be trained for fire alarm testing and smoke alarm testing?	Yes. The maintenance of the fire alarms and smoke detectors would not be carried out in-house.
<b>Reduce Inspection Team</b>	Concern raised around the proposal to reduce the number of inspectors.	It was clarified that the reduction was to inspections carried out before non-urgent and urgent repairs were carried out.
<b>Increase insurance excess</b>	Would tenants be consulted on this proposal?	There would be no impact to tenants.

<b>HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	Have sites for the council house building programme been identified.	Sites were included in a report submitted to Cabinet in 2014. The Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be receiving a report on Council House building in April, 2015.
------------------------------	--	--